

Message Text

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PAGE 01 KINGST 00892 271624Z
ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 INRE-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00 CIAE-00
DODE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 PM-04
NSC-05 SS-15 EB-08 COME-00 TRSE-00 AID-05 /060 W
-----271629 066883 /42

O 271545Z FEB 77
FM AMEMBASSY KINGSTON
TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACI IMMEDIATE 4200
INFO AMEMBASSY BRIDGETOWN
AMEMBASSY GEORGETOWN
AMEMBASSY NASSAU
AMEMBASSY PORT

UNCLAS KINGSTON 0892

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PFOR, JM, US
SUBJECT: FOREIGN MINISTER CONDEMNS NEWSWEEK ARTICLE

REFERENCE: KINGSTON 0882

1. JAMAICAN FOREIGN MINISTER P.J. PATTERSON
HELD A PRESS CONFERENCE ON FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 25 AT WHICH
HE CONDEMNED THE ARTICLE ON JAMAICA WHICH APPEARED IN
THE FEBRUARY 28 ISSUE OF NEWSWEEK UNDER THE BYLINE OF
ARNAUD DE BORCHGRAVE. (THE TEXT OF THE STATEMENT PRE-
PARED FOR PATTERSON'S USE IS BEING SENT SEPARATELY.)
CHARACTERIZING THE ARTICLE AS "THE MOST VICIOUS,
UNFOUNDED AND INACCURATE REPORTING EVER DONE ON
JAMAICA", PATTERSON SAID IT WAS OBVIOUSLY INTENDED
"TO DISRUPT AND UNDERMINE EXISTING RELATIONSHIPS WITH
OUR TRADITIONAL FRIENDS. THERE CAN BE NO DOUBT THAT
THIS WAS THE GENERAL INTENTION OF THIS ARTICLE,
COMING AT THE TIME IT HAS, THAT IS, ON THE EVE OF MY
VISIT TO THE UNITED STATES FOR CONVERSATIONS WITH THE
SECRETARY OF STATE MR. CYRUS VANCE AND OTHER MEMBERS
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OF THE NEW ADMINISTRATION."

2. PATTERSON ASSERTED THAT THE ARTICLE CONTAINS
"17 PALPABLE LIES, INNUMERABLE HALF TRUTHS AND
COUNTLESS PRE-CONCEPTIONS BORN OUT OF ARROGANCE FOR
COUNTRIES LIKE JAMAICA." AFTER ECHOING THE OLD THEME
(ONE HEARD DURING THE VISIT OF PHILIP AGEE) THAT THERE

IS AN EFFORT TO DAMAGE THE JAMAICAN ECONOMY BY
DISCOURAGING TOURISM AND INVESTMENT, PATTERSON DEALT
SPECIFICALLY WITH THE "17 PALPABLE LIES",
OFFERING REFUTATIONS OF ALL.

3. PATTERSON BROUGHT HIS RELATIVELY LENGTHY STATEMENT
TO A CONCLUSION BY ACCUSING THE NEWSWEEK ARTICLE
OF SMEARING JAMAICA AT A TIME WHEN "FOREIGN
MEDIA IN GENERAL WERE BEGINNING TO DISPLAY SOME REGARD
FOR ACCURACY IN THE REPORTING ON JAMAICA. IT REFUSES TO
ACCEPT THE RECENT MANIFESTATION OF THE WILL OF THE PEOPLE
IN THE RE-ELECTION OF THIS GOVERNMENT." PATTERSON
REMINDED LISTENERS THAT AS A NON-ALIGNED NATION, JAMAICA
SEEKS "FRIENDLY RELATIONS WITH ALL STATES IN ACCORDANCE
WITH THE PRINCIPLE OF MUTUAL RESPECT FOR SOVEREIGNTY AND
NON-INTERFERENCE IN INTERNAL AFFAIRS. WHILE MAINTAINING
AND STRENGTHENING OUR TRADITIONAL RELATIONSHIPS, WE
ALSO SEEK TO DEVELOP NEW RELATIONSHIPS ON THE BASIS
OF MUTUAL BENEFIT AND MUTUAL COOPERATION."

4. THE AMBASSADOR HAS BEEN CALLED TO SEE THE FOREIGN
MINISTER TOMORROW (FEBRUARY 28) AT 0930, AND THE
NEWSWEEK STORY AND THE JAMAICAN GOVERNMENT'S REACTION WILL
BE THE TOPIC FOR DISCUSSION.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptoning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PRESS COMMENTS, GOVERNMENT REACTIONS
Control Number: n/a
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Decaption Note:
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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
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Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770068-0179
Format: TEL
From: KINGSTON
Handling Restrictions: n/a
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Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 77 KINGSTON 882
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
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Review Event:
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Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3340505
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: FOREIGN MINISTER CONDEMNS NEWSWEEK ARTICLE
TAGS: PFOR, JM, US, (PATTERSON, P J)
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkvgwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/68e3f5c7-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009